



STATE OF WASHINGTON

**STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL**

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**MINUTES  
MECHANICAL, VENTILATION AND ENERGY  
CODES COMMITTEE**

**Date:** March 8, 2002  
**Location:** West Coast SeaTac Hotel, SeaTac

**Committee Members Present:** Stan Price, Chair; Jim Lewis; Dave Saunders; Dale Shafer

**Committee Members Absent:** Bill Misocky, Vice Chair; Rick Ford; Terry Poe

**Visitors Present:** Kim West, John Forde, Bob Eugene, John Hogan, Charles de Montigny, Dave Cantrell

**Staff Present:** Tim Nogler, Krista Braaksma, Al Rhoades, Patti Thorn

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m. by Stan Price, MVE Committee Chair. Stan welcomed everyone. Introductions were made.

**REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA**

Today's agenda was reviewed and approved as written. Stan said a hand-carried interpretation request from the City of Seattle would be included under Item 5.

**REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES**

Minutes of the January 11, 2002 Combined Mechanical, Ventilation and Energy Codes Committee/Building, Fire and Plumbing Codes Committee were reviewed and approved as written.

## INTERPRETATION REQUESTS

Stan called attention to Interpretation No. 02-Mar02 outlining 66 interpretations still applicable and 10 interpretations no longer applicable to the 2000/2001 Washington State Energy Code (WSEC). He also pointed out Interpretation No. 02-Mar03 in which staff outlined 63 interpretations still applicable and 13 interpretations no longer applicable to the 2001/2002 WSEC. Tim Nogler added that the interpretations staff found no longer applicable are because of code revisions made specifically to address questionable provisions raised in interpretation requests. Stan thanked Krista Braaksma for her time in thoroughly reviewing interpretations.

### **Motion #1:**

**Dave Saunders moved for approval of Interpretations No. 02-Mar02 and No. 02-Mar03 as proposed by staff. Dale Shafer seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously adopted.**

Stan called attention to a hand-carried interpretation request from the City of Seattle. Tim said this interpretation deals with Section 402.1.1. In question is a large residential project, the designers of which are trying to decide whether to comply with the current WSEC or wait until July 1 when code revisions adopted by the Council last year become effective. The designers ask if a proposed design utilizing heat pumps for space heating can use the standard design with electric resistance space heating. Staff's proposed answer to that question, outlined in Draft Interpretation No. 02-Mar06, is negative. Tim said the intent of Section 4 has always been to use the same type of heating system in both proposed and standard designs.

Stan asked if formal action is required today. Tim answered that question is up to the Committee. Dave suggested a timely response be made. Stan preferred further discussion and deliberation. He said Chapter 4 of the 2001 WSEC did not change, and he agreed with the appropriateness of the staff response in the draft interpretation. Dale Shafer said he'd like more time to research the question before voting on the issue. He asked if the designers were trying to use a better heating system to offset a poor envelope. Dave said he'd also like more information before making a decision. John Hogan said the question came up because Chapter 6 was revised to make the prescriptive path fuel neutral. He acknowledged that Chapter 4 and the Wattsun Program, typically used for systems analysis, remain unchanged. John suggested that the first paragraph of the question in the proposed Draft Interpretation No 02-Mar06 response is unnecessary. Tim commented that establishing an energy budget for electric resistance heat and then comparing it to a heat pump results in twice as much energy use. He said that's not the intent of an energy budget.

Jim suggested continuing discussion of Draft Interpretation No. 02-Mar06 at the Council meeting this afternoon. Members agreed, deferring further discussion.

Stan said he has had discussions with Dale about nonresidential energy provisions, including some sections amended effective July 1, 2002. He added those discussions will probably arise at the next MVE Committee meeting, perhaps as interpretation requests.

## **STAFF REPORT**

Tim said the Technical Specialist 3 position vacated by Judy Darst continues unfilled. Pending enacted legislation this session, that position may be filled. Energy Code work, including staff, is currently operating under a grant from the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance. Technical support has been provided by Krista at her Program Assistant 1 level, as well as by Tim. This biennium, Tim pointed out, a state government hiring freeze directed by Governor Locke may preclude filling the position even though it's been secured by OCD's Personnel Division.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Jim asked if the Governor has announced Council reappointments yet. Tim answered his announcement is expected within the next several weeks on open positions: representing architects, eastside cities, westside cities and east counties.

Tim said an issue was raised in the Senate hearing about the Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC) published by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials versus the International Mechanical Code (IMC) published by the International Code Council. Dale testified on the issue, and Tim thanked him for his time and support. He said a concern was expressed by the propane industry that the IMC is too restrictive, preventing them from performing their work as they previously have under the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 58 Standard. Dave added the International Fire Code (IFC) regulates propane also, calling for compliance with the International Fuel Gas Code and NFPA 58. Tim agreed. He said that both he and Dale worked the issue in response to significant concern. They advised the Senate Committee that NFPA 58 is cited under the IMC. However Tim advised that the issue may reappear on the Senate Floor.

Dave added that listing the IMC and the IFC keeps ammonia/refrigeration problems in Eastern Washington resolved.

Lacking further business, Stan adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.